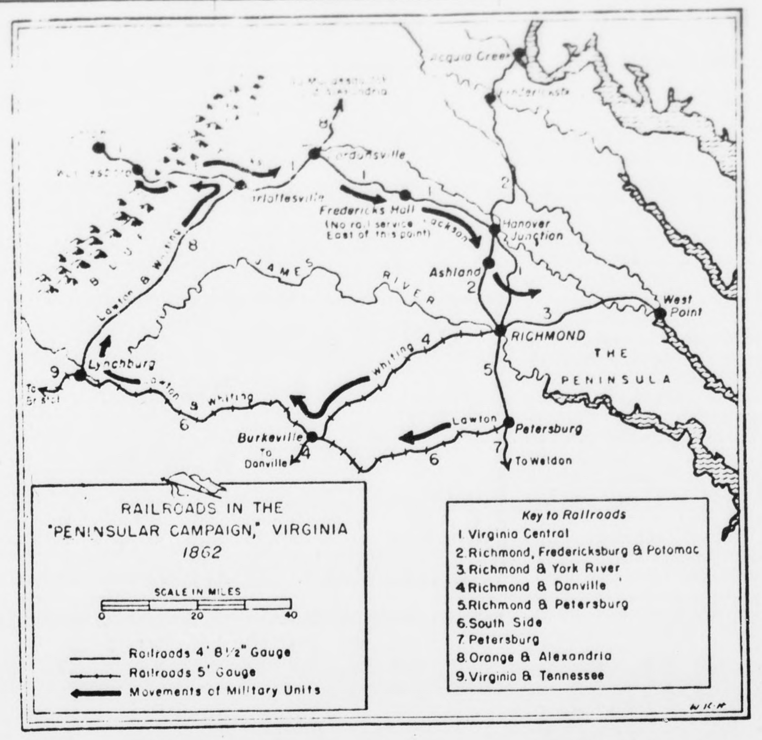

October Festival at Appomattox to Commemorate The Great Railroad War

The bloody conflict that swept the United States in 1861 has been known by many names, including the War of Rebellion, the War Between the States, and the generally-accepted Civil War. It could also have been called the Great Railroad War, for the part played by the railroads was decidedly influenced by the role of the Iron Horse.

The Civil War was the first major military action in which railroads served to any degree, and the commanders in many instances were slow to grasp the great possibilities offered by the comparatively new mode of transport. When the progressive leaders began to utilize the rails for transport of troops, supplies, wounded, and the other impedimential of warfare, the advantages soon became apparent; as a result, the rail lines became military targets of prime importance and the tide of battle was often turned by the ability of the railroads to rush up reinforcements and keep up a steady flow of ammunition, rations, and forage.

The Confederate Government's defeat was due, in a large measure, to the lack of a concentrated authority to seize and operate the railroads in the South, but the precept of Government seizure and control of the railways as a military necessity was contrary to the theory of State's Rights, and the war effort was constantly hampered by this obstruction. Indeed, President Jefferson Davis was not to accept the enforcement of really rigid transportation regulations until Appomattox was hardly a month off. Lee's "Railroad Ruse"

InMay, 1862, The Confederate States seemed to face immenant defeat. New Orleans had fallen. Union Troops threatened to overrun eastern North Carolina. Enemy columns had penetrated into Alabama. Federal gunboats lorded over great stretches of the Mississippi. Richmond itself had become a besieged citadel. But a great military ruse was about to be enacted on Central Virginia rails, and it would help change the tide of the war.

Richmond, in 1862, lay upon the rim of a rough circle of railroads that ran southwest to Burkeville, then west to Lynchburg, northeast to Charlottesville and Gordonsville,and finally east and south, by way of Hanover Junction, to the capital again. From Charlottesville the Virginia Central penetrated the Shenandoah Valley, whence the dispatches of Stonewall Jackson were providing the southern War Department with its sole morsels of good news. The situation obviously afforded the means either of reinforcing Jackson, whose troops were seriously outnumbered, or of bringing Jackson to Richmond, defenders faced equally heavy odds.

Fate had placed the direction of the Confederate Armies of Virginia in the hands of Robert E. Lee, and the new commander saw the railroad opportunity on the map. Lee had the audacity and imagination which a general who is always outnumbered must have. He also had ingenuity; he knew something about railroads and their military potentialities. In fact, he had conceived the idea of mounting a heavy gun on a flat car for use as the world's first railroad gun, but now he was faced with a dilemma: ought he concentrate in the Valley, which led straight to the back door of Washington, or should he mass his forces directly against McClellan near Richmond?

The North had just faced the same kind of dilemma, and President Lincoln's decision had cost the North the best opportunity of capturing Richmond it was to have for almost three years. McClellan (105,000 strong) was at the gates of Richmond, and McDowell (40,000) was in position to reinforce from Fredricksburg against Lee (60,000). But Jackson's success in the Valley caused Lincoln's concern for the capital, and the President had dispatched McDowell in that direction. Now McDowell was endeavoring to unite with McClellan, and it was Lee's move in the great chess game of railroad cars. Little did the federals know that they outnumbered Lee by better than two to one.

Every surplus car of the Richmond and Danville and the South Side roads were sent to Lynchburg, whence they slowly returned with Union prisoners of war for exchange at exchange at Richmond. These prisoners witnessed train loads of Confederate troops departing westward. Lee had sent Whitings brigade from Richmond and Lawtons brigade from Petersburg to link with Jackson via Lynchburg and Charlottesville. Whole train loads of troops were shunted up and down the Richmond and Danville tracks opposite Belle Isle to display them to Federal exchangees and spies. But with the infantry rode a scattering of civilians - quite unseen by the Union Soldiers - employees of the Virginia Central Rail Road, who would bring back toward Richmond not only commands ow Whiting and Lawton but Jackson's entire Army! Troops of Lawton and Whiting were still pouring from cars at at Waynesboro when Jackson received orders from Lee to turn toward Richmond. Stonewall Jackson's move to the defense of the capital was carried out with such secrecy that many of his own staff remained baffled until they were nearly in hearing of McClellan's guns. Jackson's Army arrived via Hanover Junction in time to flank the federals and force them from the Richmond sector in the series of battles from Mechanicsville to Malvern Hill - known as the Seven Days' Battles.

Historians will continue to argue if the ruse was intentional or only a result of mass confusion on the part of the Confederates and the railroads supporting them. Nevertheless, a rail-based power, operating upon its Central Virginia interior lines, had forced the retreat of a superior opponent supplied by water. (SOURCES: **The Railroads of the Confederacy**, Robert C. Black, III; **Virginia Railroads in the Civil War**, Angus James Johnston, II; and **Civil War Railroads**, George B. Abdill; compiled by D. W. MacPherson, VPI Extension Community Resource Development, Appomattox.)

NEXT WEEK: HIGH BRIDGE & THE ROAD TO APPOMATTOX.

List of Eligible Voters is Posted

A list of the names of all persons to receive ballots in the upcoming annual ASC committeemen election is available in the county ASCS office, reports James R. Ford, Jr., Chairman of the Appomattox County ASC Committee.

ASCS, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is responsible for farm program administration. On the local level, ASCS operates under a farmer-elected committee system. This year's election will be by mail ballot between Nov. 18 and Dec. 2.

Anyone who meets the following requirements is eligible to vote in these farmer committee elections: any individual of legal voting age with an interest in a farm as owner, tenant, or sharecropper who is eligible to participate in any ASCS program.

Persons not of legal voting age who supervise and conduct farming operations on an entire farm are also eligible to vote in ASC elections. No person can be denied the right to vote because of race, sex, color, religion, or national origin.

Several general provisions relate to ASCvoter eligibility. A wife who operates a farm with her husband can vote if her name is on the deed of conveyance. A youth under 18 years of age can vote if he runs a farm, and a legal guardian who runs a farm for a child can vote for the child.

A person may cast a ballot in any county in which he is an elibible ASC voter, but he or she can not vote in more than one community in the county. If an eligible voter has separate farm interests in more than one community in the same county, special care will be taken to see that only one ballot is issued to that voter.

APS P-TA To Meet Thursday

The Parent-Teacher Association of Appomattox Primary School will meet Thursday, Sept. 19, at 8 p.m. in the school auditorium. Mr. Lloyd Walton will be the guest speaker.

An introduction of faculty will follow. Officers who will serve the 1974-75 year are Mr. Robert Carter. president; Mr. James Whitehead, vice president; Mrs. Helen Kelso, sec.; Mrs. Dianne Scruggs, treas.

Pamplin PTA Meets Tuesday

PAMPLIN - The Pamplin Parent-Teachers Association will hold a meeting Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at the elementary school.

Appomattox Division School Superintendent Lloyd Walton will be the guest speaker. Walton will speak to the group about pupil evaluation progress.

Following the meeting, parents will visit classrooms to talk with teachers on the progress of individual students.

A planning meeting was held September 9.

Please come out and support your P-TA.

Fire Call

The Appomattox Volunteer Fire Department answered one call September 4 when two units and seven men responded to a house fire.

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Public Notice

Official Voting Information

The Constitution of Virginia requires that you be registered in the precinct in which you live in order to be qualified to vote.

If you are currently living in Appomattox County and you have moved your place of residence, either within the city [or county] or from another Virginia city or county, you must contact your General Registrar at the address shown below every Tuesday and Thursday between the hours of 9 to 5 on or before October 5, 1974, to change your voting registration to your current place of residence or you may not be qualified to vote in the November 5, 1974 General Election.

Only those persons who move their residence between October 5 and November 5 may be permitted to return to their former precinct to vote.

Emma B Lemon, General Registrar
3rd Floor of Court House
Home Telephone No. 352-5302

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MRS. GARY LEIGH BAKER
the former Miss Deborah Adair Miller

Announce Marriage

...Deborah Adair Miller ...y Leigh Baker were ...d on Saturday, the ...th of July, at 2 p.m. in ... Presbyterian Church, ..., Washington. The ...William McIvor per... the ceremony.

...bride was given in ... by her parents, Mr. ... George Russell Miller ... The bridegroom is ... of Mr. and Mrs. Ted ... of Tacoma, Washington. ...Anne Russell Miller was ...'s maid of honor. Also ...ing the bride were ... Barbara Tash, Mary Le... Patti Prentice, Patti ... Sue Barrett, Mrs. James ... and Mrs. Harry Palmer. ... Kitch was the flower ...

... Baker, young brother ... groom was best man. The ... were Ashley Taylor ... brother of the bride, ... Roman, Scott Burd, ... Coleman, George Minor-... James Hutton and ...

...traditional ceremony ... wedding rituals of ... and the Pacific ... The wedding music ... provided by a string trio ... by the church ... The "Lord's Prayer" was ... by soloist, Robert ... of Seattle.

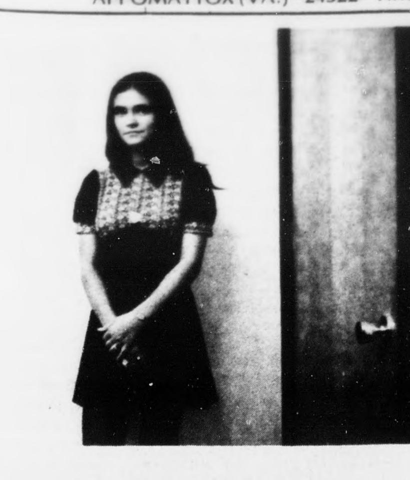
... bride was a June ... of the University of ... and is a member of ... Kappa Gamma social ... She is a creative ... station KIRO-TV in ... The groom is also a ... of Washington ... and is a member of ... Chi Alpha fraternity. ... associated with the ... branch of the Phoenix ... of Hartford, Con... The Seattle Yacht ... the scene of the ... for guests who ... the cutting of the ... wedding cake and a ... toast to the couple. ... and groom cut the ... the silver knife used ... bride's paternal great ... the late Mr. and ... William Miller of ... Virginia. The recep... guests received remem... of groom's cake in ... white boxes tied with ... bearing the bride's and ... first names and ... with tiny bouquets of ...-nots. The guests also ... parchment scrolls ... a personal message ... couple which read, ... you for sharing in our ... today. We wish you ... wonderful days as we shall enjoy. Deborah and Gary, July 13th, 1974."

The bride's parents hosted a wedding dinner at their home on Lake Washington following the wedding reception. The groom's parents entertained the wedding party and out of town guests at dinner the previous night in Seattle.

Among out-of-town guest attending the wedding were Mrs. Cecile Jonas Miller, paternal grandmother of the bride and widow of the late Leicester Adair Miller of Roanoke, Virginia; Mr. Carl Patterson Taylor of Morganton, N.C., brother of the bride's mother; Mr. Robert Shreve of Falls Church, Va., and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Grossman of Vista, California.

The bride's maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Elsie Patterson Taylor of Gladstone, Virginia.

Mr. and Mrs. Baker honeymooned at Harrison Hot Springs in British Columbia, Canada. On their return, they will reside on Queen Anne Hill, Seattle.



Announce Engagement

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Litchford of Appomattox announces the engagement of their daughter Kathy Sabrina to Terry Lee, son of Mr.and Mrs. Maurice Coffey of Madison Heights.

No date has been set for the wedding.

Grand Master To Visit Crewe

Most Worshipful Stewart Wilson Minor, Grand Master of Masons in Virginia will make his official visit to the 26th and 27th Masonic Districts at 8: p.m. Sept. 14 at the Crewe Lodge Number 123.

All members are invited, and urged to attend.

CVCC Offers Credit Courses In Surveying

During the Fall Quarter, Central Virginia Community College will offer a five-credit course in elementary surveying. The lecture for CIVL 11, section 1, will be from 6:30 until 9:50 on Wednesday evenings and the laboratory will be held from 9:00 until 11:50 on Saturday mornings. The instructor for the course will be George A. Beasley, Associate Professor of Engineering at the College.

The surveying course is being offered due to numerous requests of area residents. prospective students for the class should have had courses in algebra and geometry or several years of related work experience in the surveying field. CIVL 11 assumes no previous knowledge of surveying although work experience in the surveying area would be helpful. The first class meeting is scheduled for Wed., Sept. 25, in room 402.

Persons wishing to enroll in CIVL 11 should write or call the college at 239-0321 for a Student Application Form. Any additional information about the class can be obtained from G. A. Beasley at 239-0321, ext. 265, after Sept. 16.

Electronics Courses Offered

Central Virginia Community College plans to continue its offerings this Fall in the electrical/electronics trades area. A series of courses will be offered that are designed to train electronics and electrical maintenance personnel in electrical fundamentals, house wiring, industrial wiring, blueprint reading, and industrial electronics. A complete study of the latest National Electrical Code will be incorporated into the curriculum.

The Electricity Certificate curriculum is designed to be completed in three and one-third years but could be completed in three years by attending classes more than the two nights a week currently scheduled. Courses in the first year (ELEC 51-52-53), the second year (ELEC 55-56-57) and the third year (ELEC 77-16-61) of the Certificate program will be offered during 1974-75. The beginning course in the series (Applied Electricity I) was initiated for students with an interest in the electrical field and does not require any prior electrical training, although such training would be helpful.

Interested students should write or call the college at 239-0321 for a Student Application Form and apply to the college as a Regular Student. Any additional information about the curriculum can be obtained by contacting Dr. Roger W. Beeker at 239-0321, extension 223.

Homecoming Set At Evergreen

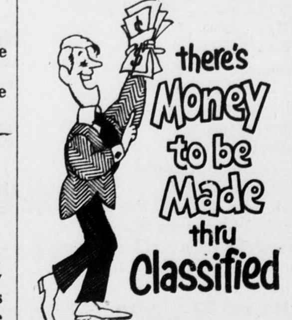
Homecoming services will be held at Evergreen United Methodist Church on Sunday, Sept. 22, at 11 a.m. This is also the seventieth anniversary of the church.

Former pastor Carl T. Paughf will be guest speaker.

Lunch will be served at 12:15 p.m.

Rev. Durward Fox is pastor of the host church.

all points bulletin SCHOOL'S OPEN! DRIVE WITH CARE!



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